

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ABIDJA 04571 061913Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----061925Z 054685 /53
O 061835Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3330
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T ABIDJAN 4571

EXDIS

FOR AF ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLE

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR CG
SUBJ: CONGO BRAZZAVILLE SEEKS TALKS WITH US

1. PAUL KAYA, ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY OF ENTENTE FUND, JUST TELEPHONED ME TO SAY THAT TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF CONGO BRAZZAVILLE GOVERNMENT WERE CURRENTLY IN ABIDJAN AND HAD ASKED HIM TO CONVEY MESSAGE TO YOU THROUGH ME. KAYA DESCRIBED CONGOLESE OFFICIALS AS POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC COUNSELORS, RESPECTIVELY, OF PRESIDENT YHOMBI. HE EXPLAINED THAT DIPLOMATIC COUNSELOR ITUA (PHONETIC) HAD PERFORMED SAME FUNCTION FOR ASSASSINATED PRESIDENT N'GOUABI AND WAS IN FACT IN WASHINGTON AT TIME OF N'GOUABI'S DEATH. AT THAT TIME, KAYA CONTINUED, ITUA HAD BEEN CONDUCTING CONVERSATIONS WITH STATE DEPARTMENT TO EXPLORE REOPENING OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND CONGO BRAZZAVILLE. APPARENTLY IT HAD BEEN AGREED IN WASHINGTON THAT FURTHER TALKS WOULD BE NECESSARY AND SHOULD TAKE PLACE AT A EUROPEAN CAPITAL TO BE SELECTED BY THE CONGOLESE AT A TIME TO BE CHOSEN BY THE US. CONGOLESE GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED ON BONN AS THE APPROPRIATE LOCALE, SINCE THEY HAVE AN EMBASSY

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THERE, AND UNDERSTOOD THIS WAS SATISFACTORY FROM US POINT OF VIEW. CONGOLESE HAD NOT RPT NOT HOWEVER HEARD ANYTHING FROM WASHINGTON ABOUT PREFERRED DATE FOR TALKS. CONGOLESE GOVERNMENT WISHED TO BEGIN TALKS "AS SOON AS POSSIBLE" AND WERE THEREFORE EXTREMELY ANXIOUS TO OBTAIN WORD FROM WASHINGTON ON TIMING. CONGOLESE REPRESENTATIVES WERE AWARE THAT YOU WOULD BE

IN ABIDJAN WITHIN NEXT TWO DAYS AND WISHED TO KNOW
WHETHER THEY COULD SEE YOU PRIVATELY AFTER YOUR ARRIVAL.
THEY ARE SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO BRAZZAVILLE BY FLIGHT
LEAVING ABIDJAN AT NOON SUNDAY MAY 8, BUT WOULD BE
WILLING TO DEFER THEIR DEPARTURE IF THIS WOULD BE USEFUL.

2. I TOLD KAYA THAT I WAS NOT PERSONALLY FAMILIAR WITH
ANY OF THIS BACKGROUND AND THOUGHT THAT YOU WOULD HAVE A
FULL AGENDA IN ABIDJAN. I SAID, HOWEVER, THAT I WOULD
TRANSMIT CONGOLESE MESSAGE TO YOU, INCLUDING THEIR
DESIRE TO BEGIN TALKS IN BONN AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE
MOMENT. IF, AS I SUSPECTED, YOUR SCHEDULE DID NOT RPT NOT
PERMIT GETTING TOGETHER WITH THEM IN ABIDJAN, THERE WOULD
BE OTHER WAYS TO CONVEY TO THE CONGOLESE GOVERNMENT OUR
REACTION TO THEIR PROPOSAL AND TO ADDRESS THE QUESTION
OF TIMING. I CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT I THOUGHT THE
CONGOLESE REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD PLAN TO RETURN TO
BRAZZAVILLE ON SUNDAY, AS SCHEDULED, BUT THAT I WOULD
GET IN TOUCH WITH KAYA PROMPTLY IF YOU SAW MERIT IN
THEIR REMAINING HERE.

3. PLEASE ADVISE. STEARNS

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NNN

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